

Sandbach
Urban



District
Council



REPORT

*on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year Ended 31 st
. . December, 1956 . .*

Medical Officer of Health—
L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—
N. A. ROGERS, M.S.I.A.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Sandbach Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1956, on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There has been a slight increase in the estimated population : the birth rate is approximately the same as last year, and there has been a fall in the number of deaths.

Once again, it is most satisfactory to report that there has been no death of a mother in childbirth. This reflects great credit on all concerned, and we should be mindful of the work of the General Practitioners, the District Midwives, the Doctors and Nurses in hospitals, the Health Visitors and those who manage our Ante-Natal Clinics, who year after year maintain such a satisfactory state of affairs.

The prevalence of infectious disease during the year was particularly low. The year was marked by the introduction of vaccination against Poliomyelitis. There is no doubt that this measure promises to reduce very considerably the incidence of this disease. The figures being published in the U.S.A. show this clearly and their vaccine, now that the initial difficulties of production have been overcome, is as safe and effective as the one produced in this country.

There were four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified. In this connection, the B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis is still going on, and is available for contacts of cases and for school children in their fourteenth year. Many parents still do not realise the great benefit that is obtained from this vaccination. The immunity provided is satisfactory and experience has now shown it to be a safe procedure. The time has now come that this method of preventing tuberculosis should be extended to the population at large.

Another great step forward during the year under review was the inclusion of our district in a specified area for the sale of milk. This means that only T.T. pasteurised or sterilised milk may now be retailed. As milk is the main source of spread of that form of tuberculosis which affects bones, joints, glands and the brain it is hoped that as the years pass on these conditions will eventually disappear.

Attention is drawn to that section of the report produced by the Senior Public Health Inspector, and particularly to the summary of the number of inspections he has carried out. This is a measure

of the extent of the work that must be done to keep the town clean and healthy. There are no set limits to the Inspector's work, and what he has to do is not always apparent, but it is work which is vital and must go on.

In this connection, I am somewhat concerned regarding the staffing position in his department. The Additional Inspector resigned in May 1956, and it has not been found possible to replace him. The Senior Inspector has continued on his own to cope with the work to the best of his ability, and under the circumstances as will be seen from the figures published, he has done very well. It is obviously impossible however, for one man to perform all the Public Health duties, in addition to the various other tasks not connection with health, which are made the responsibility of the Senior Inspector.

The number of houses completed by the Council was 6 and by private enterprise 23 compared with 30 and 38 respectively in 1955. We still have a considerable waiting list although many of the cases of overcrowding and insanitary conditions have been dealt with.

It has been disappointing to report that no progress was made during the year in solving the acute problem at the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works. Whilst this undertaking remains in its present state it will always constitute a serious hazard to health.

Once again, I wish to thank sincerely Mr. Skeath our Clerk, and the members of his staff who have given me such assistance as has enabled me to carry out my duties. I am indebted to Mr. N. A. Rogers the Senior Public Health Inspector, and Mr. H. J. Rees the Engineer and Surveyor, for their help in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1955.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 9720 (9690)

Births

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live Births—							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	122 (121)	60 (66)	62 (55)
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7 (4)	2 (1)	5 (3)
Still Births—							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8 (3)	2 (2)	6 (1)
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Live Birth rate per 1000 estimated average population							
mid-1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2 (12.8)
Live Birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of							
population	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.7 (15.0)
Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...						58.3 (23.4)
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total							
(live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.0 (23.2)
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	...	...	...				.82 (.3)
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total							
population	...	...	...	...	...	...	.37 (.34)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows—

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3 (1)	3 (—)	— (1)
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births	...					23.2	(8.0)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales						23.8	(24.9)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births						24.5	(8.2)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live							
births	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)

Deaths

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths, all ages	...	...	...	...	82 (93)	47 (49)	35 (44)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average population							9.1 (9.5)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of							
population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7 (11.7)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year—

CAUSE					Total	Male	F'male
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	2	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	5	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	12	4	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	16	13	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	11	5	6
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	1	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	18	9	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	2	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL					82	47	35

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis ... 0 (—)

Other Maternal causes ... 0 (—)

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births ... 0 (—)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitor : Miss L. Jacks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

“ Abbey Croft,” Abbey Road, Sandbach. Tel. Sandbach 309

The work of the Infant Welfare Clinic has continued to increase, and at long last the prospect of obtaining adequate and satisfactory premises seems bright. Whilst it is recognised that economy in public expenditure is particularly vital at this time, it is hoped that the highest priority will be given to creating satisfactory Clinic conditions in Sandbach.

The take-up of welfare foods continues to be satisfactory, and no single complaint was received during the year.

Statistics

	New Cases			Total Attendances			No of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach Welfare Clinic	125 (110)	— (—)	— (—)	2054 (1487)	442 (508)	715 (519)	51 (51)	882 (869)	17.2 (17)

					New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	...	...	...	...	15 (8)	68 (47)	31 (36)	2.1 (1.3)
E.N.T. Clinic	...	...	...	...	9 (16)	12 (16)	11 (11)	1.1 (1.4)

Welfare Foods Sold—1956

Distribution Centre	National Dried Milk			Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
	Full cream	Half cream	A & D Tablets		
Welfare Centre, Sandbach	138	—	—	94	215
Council Offices, Sandbach	5564	94	765	1106	7580

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses—

	Tel. No.
Beatty, M., 5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach. (full time)	Sandbach 731
Evans, N., 5 Elworth Street, Sandbach. (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	Sandbach 256
Gerrard, E. E., 647 Crewe Road, Wheelock (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	Sandbach 281

There was an increase in the number of home confinements as compared with last year, which is a satisfactory move in the right direction.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that the need for hospital confinements will always be necessary on medical and social grounds, but where the home conditions are satisfactory and there are no medical complications then home confinements has much to commend it.

With regard to the Home Nurse, their value in enabling the General Practitioners to treat their patients at home cannot be too highly stressed. These nurses working under the direction of the family doctor help to keep many cases out of hospital.

Births

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
<i>Live</i>	<i>Still</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Still</i>
88	7	40	2	—	—
(90)	(2)	(31)	(—)	(1)	(—)

Vaccination and Immunisation

The effort to keep Diphtheria at bay continues steadily year in and year out. There is no doubt that if these efforts were relaxed this disease would re-occur and cause many deaths and serious permanent damage to health.

The following table which relates to England and Wales illustrates just how successful immunisation against Diphtheria has been.

<i>Year</i>	...	<i>Deaths</i>	...	<i>Corrected Notifications</i>
1948	...	156	...	3575
1949	...	84	...	1890
1950	...	49	...	962
1951	...	33	...	664
1952	...	32	...	376
1953	...	23	...	266
1954	...	9	...	173
1955	...	13	...	155
1956 (provisional)		8	...	51

It is now possible to provide a very good protection against Whooping Cough, and in many cases it is combined with the Diphtheria Prophylactic in order to reduce the number of injections.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	...	1	(1)
School children	...	...	...	...	3	(53)
					<hr/> 4	<hr/> (54)
Reinforcing Injections	...	...	...	...	19	(18)

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	...	1	(4)
School children	...	...	...	...	1	(42)
					<hr/> 2	<hr/> (46)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	...	81	(79)
School children	...	...	...	...	2	(67)
					<hr/> 83	<hr/> (146)

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	...	53	(53)
School children	...	...	...	...	1	(5)
Adults	...	...	...	...	4	(2)
					<hr/> 58	<hr/> (60)

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
School Children	...	...	...	...	—	(2)
Adults	...	...	...	...	7	(10)
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					7	(12)
					<hr/>	<hr/>

Public Health Laboratory Service

The regular routine sampling of water supplies is carried out by the Water Board. The Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, is available for Bacteriological analysis of water, milk, ice-cream and food, as and when we require it. They also undertake to carry out examination of all swabs submitted. This is a free service, and I wish to record the ever ready help and assistance I have received from Dr. W. Parker, the Director of this Laboratory, particularly in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease cases.

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

The Sandbach British Red Cross Association continues to render valuable services to the town and surrounding district. Good liason exists with Ambulance Stations in the neighbouring authorities and I am satisfied that the town is well provided for. The vehicles are well maintained and credit for this is due to Col. Hovey and the Committee and staff who so ably run the organisation.

Ambulance Figures—1956

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
<hr/>												
Mileages—												
	735	1141	1308	988	604	635	753	606	655	1213	971	480
	(1214)	(731)	(1116)	(975)	(1073)	(912)	(923)	(1054)	(1430)	(1378)	(1271)	(914)
<hr/>												
Patients—												
	66	103	127	124	68	83	68	69	73	154	86	53
	(101)	(74)	(108)	(102)	(104)	(86)	(83)	(104)	(160)	(163)	(142)	(77)
<hr/>												
Journeys—												
	27	37	43	38	27	24	24	22	24	39	37	17
	(37)	(27)	(33)	(34)	(37)	(33)	(35)	(31)	(43)	(41)	(40)	(28)
<hr/>												

Utilicon Ambulance Figures—1956

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
Mileages—	3156	2960	3779	3165	3380	3276	3854	2834	3014	3777	3891	3315
	(3249)	(2573)	(3106)	(2428)	(3373)	(3499)	(3708)	(3700)	(3051)	(3730)	(3995)	(3431)
Patients—	201	195	281	236	275	285	316	240	242	343	322	301
	(231)	(226)	(233)	(182)	(264)	(256)	(216)	(234)	(256)	(281)	(279)	(217)
Journeys—	93	87	107	91	109	95	108	85	95	111	107	97
	(100)	(81)	(92)	(83)	(113)	(95)	(98)	(104)	(96)	(98)	(115)	(92)

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1956 are as follows—

Home Helps employed during 1956—

Full time ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	(6)
Casual ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	(8)
								<u>17</u>	<u>(14)</u>

Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1956—

Full time ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	(5)
Casual ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	(—)
								<u>9</u>	<u>(5)</u>

Applications received during 1956—

Confinement ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	(9)
Sickness ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	(9)
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	(4)
								<u>19</u>	<u>(22)</u>

Cases attended during 1956—

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(5)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	(8)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	(11)
							<hr/>	<hr/>
							20	(24)
							<hr/>	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, for the following information.

The district is supplied partly from the Arclid works and partly from the Delamere Boreholes. At the Arclid works a new chlorination system was installed and proved satisfactory.

The number of inadequate supplies were improved by the chemical treatment of the service pipes, a free service to the consumer which will continue in the future.

Housing

The number of houses erected during 1956 was as follows—

(a) By the Council	...	...	...	...	6	(30)
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	23	(38)

**PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DESEASE**

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1956

	Age distribution												Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1-1	2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	10-10	15-15	20-20	35-35	45-45	65 & over			
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Measles ...	—	2	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1956 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1947.

Notifications, 1947 to 1956

	1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5		1		1																
5-15				2		1						1								
15-25	1	1	1									1				1		1		1
25-35						1		1		1						1				
35-45				1						1										
45-55				2												1				
55-65								1		1				2						1
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15						4				1										
15-25						2						1	1			1	1			
25-35		2						1	1			1		1		1				1
35-45								1					1							
45-55																				
55-65		1				1														
65 and over																				1
TOTAL	4	2	4	7	4	1	4	2	3	—	3	2	4	—	5	1	1	—	4	—

Deaths, 1947 to 1956

	1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35			1		1				1											
35-45									1											
45-55													1						1	
55-65	1								1		1				1					
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35							1		1											
35-45													1							
45-55																				
55-65									1											
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	5	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

Cases on Register at December 31st, 1956

		Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	—	3	3	2	5	2	—	15
Female Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	4	3	—	—	2	10
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	4
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	6

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and visits during 1956	... ..	3294
Number of Informal Notices served during 1956	... ..	117
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1956	...	118
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/56	...	16
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1956	... ..	9
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1956	...	20
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/56	...	—

Summary of Inspections and Visits by Public Health Inspectors

Accumulations and deposits	... ..	18
Bakehouses	... ..	6
Butchers' Shops	... ..	14
Cafes and Restaurants	... ..	14
Cinemas	... ..	2
Conservancy	... ..	11
Dairies	... ..	3
Disinfections	... ..	3
Disinfestations	... ..	15
Drain Obstructions	... ..	125
Drain Tests	... ..	18
Drain Inspections	... ..	213
Dustbins	... ..	142
Factories—Mechanical	... ..	10
Non-mechanical	... ..	5
Building sites, etc.	... ..	5
Fairs, etc.	... ..	2
Fish Shops	... ..	1
Fish-frying Premises	... ..	8
Food Premises (other than those listed)	... ..	81
Food Sampling	... ..	—
Hotels and Licensed Premises	... ..	11

Housing—Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Unfit Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice-cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Market Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Milk Retailing	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouse—Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	356
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Verminous and Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Watercourses, ditches and ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous, interviews, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	359
Council House Tenancies	...	...	...	...	...	...	318
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	232
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	202
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Duties connected with Town Hall & M'ket Hall	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
							3294

Proceedings were instituted in only one instance during the year, and these were subsequently withdrawn when the nuisance was abated before the Court hearing.

In general, it has become more difficult to persuade landlords to comply with Informal Notices in respect of house repairs, and much unnecessary time is spent in effecting this persuasion and in extra visits to the properties. On the other hand, the service of a Statutory Notice or a positive threat of prosecution invariably secures a speedy reaction. It is felt that the requests and instructions of the Council secure much more attention if it is known that they are prepared to take a strong line where the circumstances warrant it; and, in consequence, the Officials command more respect in implementing the Council's decisions.

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

Two Refuse Collection Vehicles with a complement of eight men carried out the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse. The average cycle of household refuse collection during 1956 was 8 days. In previous years, difficulty has always arisen through the additional accumulation of refuse following general holidays and during individual workmen's holidays ; but during the year in question, overtime working at the crucial period has had the effect of minimising the difficulties of householders and reducing subsequent complaints.

The Refuse Collectors continue to perform their duties satisfactorily and particular credit is due to the Working-Foreman, T. W. Pierpoint, for the good work that is done. It is also pleasing to mention that the sickness rate has been very low and absenteeism at a minimum.

Refuse Disposal

In addition to the Council's own refuse tip, several sites on private land were utilised. This was done by co-operation with farmers who required filling-in for low lying land, etc., and the result of these arrangements was most satisfactory. The Council's tip at Malkins Bank is not controlled in the technical sense, but more attention has been paid during the past twelve months to keeping it in a more orderly fashion.

Conservancy

The Council have continued the weekly collection and emptying of pail closets by direct labour. 24 houses and 3 other premises are thus served. The scheme works quite satisfactorily and the ultimate disposal takes place at the sewage works.

Salvage

At the beginning of the year the price paid by the Merchants for Baled Mixed Waste Paper was £8 per ton. In March the price was reduced to £7/10/0 but this figure was maintained for the rest of the year.

Apart from a special collection from the shopping area each Saturday morning, no separate arrangements are made for the collection of waste paper. Nevertheless, many householders still maintain the war-time habit of segregating their waste paper from other dustbin refuse and this greatly assists the Refuse Collectors in the subsequent separation.

In the financial year ending 31st March, 1956, the net profit from the disposal of Waste Paper was £382. When it is realised

that this waste material would otherwise have been burned, buried or allowed to blow around the area of the refuse tip, it is obvious that the Council are wise in continuing salvage collection.

Near the end of the year, a start was made on retrieving scrap metal, including tins, from the refuse tip, and it is hoped to pursue this further during 1957.

The following amounts of Salvage were sold during 1956—

	£	s	d
Waste Paper (92 tons, $6\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.)	704	8	1
Cardboard Boxes (8027)	100	6	9
Scrap Metal (6 tons, $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.)	32	4	0
	<hr/>		
	£836	18	10
	<hr/>		

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Senior Public Health Inspector, spends approximately three-quarters of his working time on these duties. The following treatments were carried out during the year—

Business Premises	99
Agricultural Properties	64
Dwelling Houses	63
Local Authority Undertakings	21
	<hr/>
	247
	<hr/>

Annual Contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 17 commercial and 7 Agricultural properties. The total income from these contracts was £134, and it is felt that the consistent testing and treatment of susceptible sites, as applied under this scheme, is a most satisfactory way of keeping down the rat and mouse population.

The sewers in the area have been treated for rats twice during the year and the results indicate only very slight infestation.

Offensive Trades

There is only one business in the area—Bone Boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade. In the warmer weather, some control has been necessary to limit the spread of flies, but no other nuisance has been established in the year under review. The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.

Moveable Dwellings

There is only one licensed Moveable Dwelling in the District. This is a properly constructed caravan, suitably sited and occupied by two female farm workers.

Public Conveniences

The Public Conveniences in the town centre have been well used and adequately maintained during the year. Very few instances of abuse of the premises have been reported.

Smoke Abatement

During the year a number of instances have been recorded of excessive smoke emission from various industrial chimneys. In certain individual cases informal action has secured the co-operation of the firms concerned and the abatement of the nuisance. The main trouble however, continues to emanate from a works which has for many years been established in the production of salt. At the instigation of Health Officials, this firm did fit mechanical under-feed stokers to 10 of their salt pan furnaces, but 5 chimneys serving 36 hand-fired furnaces are still frequently polluting the atmosphere. Regular complaints are received from residents in that area, but, so long as the Council remains satisfied that this continual discharge of filth is necessary or unavoidable, there is little more which can be done by the Officials.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, undoubtedly contains improved provisions for dealing with the smoke problem, but its success depends on the extent to which Local Authorities are prepared to make use of these provisions.

Housing

Last year's Report indicated that the Council had adopted a plan, which was subsequently approved by the Minister, for dealing with 77 Unfit Houses during the five years commencing August, 1955. In February, 1956, the Council decided that they could only provide the 72 Council Houses required for this purpose at the rate of 8 per year. This, of course, had the effect of changing the five-year clearance proposals into a nine-year programme.

Near the end of 1956 Demolition Orders were made in respect of 4 cottages situated $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile from the highway and approachable only by a canal tow path which was frequently flooded. The situation and condition of the houses was such that the owners, three of them owner-occupiers, appeared almost pleased to receive the Council's decision.

There is little prospect of making any further orders in the near future as the situation is largely governed by the rate of building of replacement Council houses. At present the Council has no building land available and for this reason no programme of building has been formulated.

Clearance Area—

Number of Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Individual Houses—

Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	4
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	2
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses closed under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	...	...	...	Nil
Number of parts of buildings closed under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil

Repairs—

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	...	...	38
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action—			
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts	...	...	10
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	...	...	Nil
(c) under Housing Acts	...	...	Nil

Certificates of Disrepair

One application was received under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for a Certificate of Disrepair, and this was granted.

Improvement Grants

Number of Applications received during 1956	...	9
Number of Grants approved during 1956	...	8
Total Cost of Grants approved during 1956	...	£973

All the Grants approved were in respect of owner-occupied houses and in each case the Council made a grant of 50% based on the approved expenditure.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

The Public Slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane, Sandbach, controlled by the Council, is the only slaughterhouse operating in the Urban District.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and inspected	587	18	16	1881	791	3293
<i>There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1956</i>						
<i>Condemnations—</i>						
1. <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	5	7	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	128	4	—	66	18	216
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	21.8	22.2	6.25	3.8	3.2	6.9
2. <i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	—	—	1	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	55	1	—	—	20	76
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	10.2	5.5	—	—	2.6	2.5

It is interesting to observe the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last five years :

Average amount Condemned per Beast Slaughtered

	<i>All Diseases</i>			<i>Tuberculosis only</i>		
1952	39 lb.	...	...	26 lb.	...	...
1953	32 lb.	...	...	22 lb.	...	...
1954	23 lb.	...	...	15 lb.	...	...
1955	14 lb.	...	...	10 lb.	...	...
1956	9 lb.	...	...	7 lb.	...	...

Analysis in lbs. of Condemned Meat

<i>Disease</i>					<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis	...	...	...		4299	—	—	450
Parasites and Cists	...	...	...		1008	—	94	3
Dropsy	...	...	...	...	—	—	28	94
Moribund	...	...	...		—	—	96	—
Pericarditis	...	...	...		—	—	—	11
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	74	—	—	4
Septicaemia	...	...	...		—	—	—	433
Pyæmia	...	...	...	...	—	—	92	—
Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	35	63
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	30	—	—
Abscesses	...	...	...	...	221	—	3	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		28	—	—	72
					<hr/> 5630	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 348	<hr/> 1135

Six cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year and the carcasses were submitted to treatment by refrigeration.

Other Foods

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which contained wider powers for securing the hygienic handling and storage of food, came into operation on 1st January, 1956. Until May, when the Additional Inspector resigned, the Public Health Officers were making a concentrated effort to secure the implementation of these Regulations in Sandbach ; but since then, the inspection of food premises (along with several other important duties) has been neglected through the inability of one person to cope with the amount of work in the department.

One pleasing feature from the public health point of view is the progress made in connection with the construction of hygienic foodshops in the Council's Market Hall. The new Food Regulations acted as a spur to the Council in putting this scheme into effect ; and

the replacement of dirty wooden benches by bright, attractive lock-up shops has made a big improvement to the general appearance of the market and has also proved an economic proposition.

The number of Food Premises in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	13
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	52
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	22
Sweet Factory	...	...	...	...	1

Unsound Foods

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at retail stores :

81 tins Meat	95 lb. Frozen Beef
509 tins Vegetables	13 lb. Bacon
170 tins Fruit	22 lb. Wet Fish
62 tins Milk	28 lb. Cheese
4 tins Cream	2 lb. Butter
1 tin Soup	2 lb. Margarine
9 tins Fish	30 lb. Cake
2 tins Syrup	15 Jars Coffee
2 Meat Pies	

All condemned food is collected and specially buried in the Council's Refuse Tip.

Milk

On 1st October, 1956, an Order came into operation by which Sandbach Urban District was included in a Specified Area where only milk of special designations could be sold by retail.

This is part of the national plan to provide reasonably safe milk for the consumer whether he wishes it or not, and it does

represent a considerable step forward so far as this District is concerned. There are undoubtedly people who, possibly because of some old-fashioned prejudice, prefer to drink milk just as it comes from the cow, disregarding the fact that the particular cow may be infected with tuberculosis, but these people obviously have to be protected against their own ignorance. Fortunately, conversion to T.T. herds, with the consequent elimination of tuberculous cattle, is now proceeding at such an encouraging rate that the time is in sight when a tuberculous beast will be very much exceptional. The figures supplied under Meat Inspection give a distinct pointer in this direction.

The position in December, 1956, with regard to Licensing and Registration, was as follows :

Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Five samples of Milk—2 Pasteurised and 3 ungraded, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and were given satisfactory reports.

Ice-Cream

Forty premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice-Cream. Only wrapped ice-cream was sold from these premises and no ice-cream has been manufactured in the district during the year.

Other Registered Premises

Fifteen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meat, sausages, etc., and 9 premises are registered for fish frying

Factories

Routine inspections of factories are made from time to time and the following table indicates the position for 1956 :

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	32	5	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52	10	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	5	—	—
	120	20	2	—

